

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 ARA-10 IO-13 /111 W
-----007916 280716Z /14

R 261000Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6367
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1179

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SO

SUBJECT: MININFO PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 24.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SOMALI MINISTER OF INFORMATION
ABDISALAM SHEIKH HUSSEIN, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE LATE ON
MAY 24 IN WHICH HE COVERED SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN THE
HORN OF AFRICA, THE SOMALI WITHDRAWAL POLICY, THREATS TO
INVADE SOMALIA FROM ETHIOPIA, AND CHARGED NEW ETHIOPIAN
ATTEMPTS BACKED UP BY CUBA TO DESTABILIZE OR INVADE DJIBOUTI.
THE GSDR TOOK PAINS TO INVITE CHIEFS OF MISSION OR EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVES TO BE PRESENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. WE HAVE STUDIED THE TEXT OF THE MINISTERS STATEMENT AND
CAN DISCERN NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW OR STRIKING IN THE SOMALI
ASSERTIONS. FRANKLY WE ARE A LITTLE PUZZLED AS TO WHAT WAS
THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF
REPORTING THAT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE OGADEN MAY BE STEPPED
UP, BUT WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RELATE THIS PRECISELY TO
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THE ARGUMENTS PROPOUNDED BY THE SOMALI MINISTER.
3. THE EMBASSY IS HESITANT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO WHAT APPEARS TO
BE AN EVENT OF MINOR IMPORTANCE. THREE THINGS COME TO MIND AT
THIS TIME. THE FIRST IS THAT THE PRESS CONFERENCE COMES SHORTLY
AFTER CONCERTED WESTERN ACTION IN ZAIRE. PRESIDENT SIAD MADE A
POINT OF CONGRATULATING THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON THE FRENCH
INITIATIVE

IN THERE AND THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST CUBAN-BACKED FORCES. (HE LEFT
UNSAID THE QUESTION WHICH WAS UNDOUBTEDLY UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND --
WHY ZAIRE AND NOT THE HORN). THE SECOND IS GROWING ANXIETY
ON THE PART OF THE GSDR OVER DJIBOUTI. THE THIRD IS A POSSIBLE
INCREASED APPRECIATION OF CUBAN AND LEFTIST AMBIVALENCE OVER THE
ERITREAN SITUATION, AND FEARS THAT THE CUBANS MAY CONSIDER IT
IMPORTANT TO INCREASE THEIR ACTIVITY IN THE OGADEN IN ORDER TO REMIND
THE DIRGUE OF THEIR INDISPENSABILITY.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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